

SPECIAL MEETING-MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL-APRIL 11, 2005

Mayor Elizabeth Paterson called the special meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 6:40 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Blair, Clouette, Haddad, Hawkins, Koehn, Paterson, Paulhus, Redding, Schaefer

II. PUBLIC HEARING

1. FY 2005/2006 Proposed Hearing

Ms. Jane Goldman, 360 Wormwood Hill Road, spoke in support of full day kindergarten. She teaches early childhood at the University of Connecticut. She felt that full day kindergarten is a good investment.

Mr. Richard Pellegrine, 269 Clover Mill Road, questioned the procedure of the Regional School budget. He said it seems as though year after year it is the same scenario. The municipal leaders ask the Region to cut their budget; the Region cuts it by at least \$200,000. The Superintendent comes back with those cuts. "At my level of experience shall I be getting a little suspicious.?"

Quentin Kessel, 97 Codfish Falls Road, spoke in support of the amount of money to bond for open space acquisition and the money to continue to fund it. Please continue this funding as it encourages those people who have land to place conservation easements on them. These easements are a sacrifice when you consider what developers would pay for the same land. If the Council does not continue open space funding it would diminish what people are willing to do with their own land.

Constance Greene, 22 Circle Drive, expressed concern over the assessment of homes, which were once affordable housing in that area. Now the value on the homes has risen so much the homeowners cannot afford the taxes. She also spoke against full day kindergarten. She felt that the parents should take responsibility for their children.

Carol Pellegrine, 269 Clover Mill Road, spoke on the budget. She felt that retired persons living on fixed incomes may not be able to afford taxes. She suggested to cut in the areas of: full day kindergarten, E.O. Smith guidance department expansion, Community Center, reduction in staff if all programs can not support themselves with fees. Everything has gone up including heating oil, so please consider a reduction in the budget.

Kyla Schaefer, Storrs Road, urged the full time kindergarten class. The earlier you start the better they will catch up, especially when children, similar to her son, who was premature will need extra help. Earlier intervention is important. Ms. Schaefer attended special classes while she was growing up in Storrs and would have appreciated the full day kindergarten to help her "catch up" socially

and intellectually.

Patricia Gaenzler, 160 Beech Mountain Road, urged the Council to not raise the taxes too high.

Richard DeBoer, 62 Blacksmith Shop Road, said that his family has been offering moderate housing since 1931. He urged that water lines and hydrants be placed over the entire town. This project would benefit all the residents because their home insurance rates would go down. He also questioned the maintenance of the open space parcels, who was using them, as they seemed to just be growing up into brush.

Dr. Gordon Schimmel, 22 Ft. Griswold and Superintendent of the Board of Education, spoke on full day kindergarten. He urged a committee be set up to look at future space consideration. He gave to the Town Manager a sheet giving the costs associated with all day kindergarten. All Council members received this information.

At 7:10 p.m. the Public Hearing was continued until the regular meeting at 7:30 p.m.

III. NEW BUSINESS

1. Social Services pp. 131-137

Mr. Kevin Grunwald, Director of Social Services, was present to answer any questions concerning the budget. Mr. Jeffrey Smith, Finance Director was also present.

Overview Pg. 131

Pg. 133

Questioned about Account 563 Misc. Expenses and Fees 50,000 What is it for?

Answer: that amount was fee waivers

Pg. 137 Under work measurements noon meals served went dramatically down, why?

Answered that there were two meal plans. One served by TVCCA and another by the Windham Hospital.

Pg. 134 Question: Is there a charge for Dr. Haney's clinical service by the clients? The answer was no, there is no charge.

2. Contributions to area services Pg. 142-143

Pg. 142-143

Question on cost of WRTD.

Question on cost of Senior Center Association, why nothing in 05/06? Answer:

he plans for a requested shed were placed into capital improvement budget and the cost of a halftime lunch person will be employed by the town.

Mr. Grunwald asked that next budget season he would like direction in criteria for funding area agencies.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:28 p.m. Mr. Hawkins moved to adjourn the special meeting. Ms. Redding seconded motion.

So passed unanimously.

Elizabeth Paterson, Mayor

Joan E. Gerdson, Town Clerk